

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0082

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, GATT, EC, FR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY IN THE GISCARD
GOVERNMENT

REFS: PARIS 12488, 13364, A-173

1. ECON/COM MIN HAS DISCUSSED WITH BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, AND DE MOREL, DIRECTOR OF DREE,
IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION THE FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY OF
THE GISCARD ADMINISTRATION IN TERMS OF BOTH ORGANIZATION
AND SUBSTANTIVE ORIENTATION.

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2. ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL - BRUNET SAID HE EXPECTED

TO REMAIN IN HIS PRESENT POSITION. HE SPECIFICALLY DENIED PRESS REPORTS THAT HE WAS BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE POST OF AMBASSADOR TO BONN. DE MOREL CONFIRMED THIS STATEMENT, SAYING IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT BRUNET HAD NO DESIRE TO LEAVE PARIS AT THE PRESENT TIME. NEITHER DE MOREL NOR BRUNET WAS ABLE TO SAY VERY MUCH ABOUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NEW STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN TRADE, SINCE HIS ATTRIBUTES HAD YET TO BE DEFINED AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT. (THE DECREE SPECIFYING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS POST WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT WEEK.)

3. DE MOREL, WHO HAD BEEN UNHAPPY BECAUSE IT APPEARED HE WOULD NO LONGER BE REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, SAID THAT IT HAD NOW BEEN DECIDED THAT THE DREE WOULD REMAIN ORGANIZATIONALLY UNDER THE MINISTRY AND THAT ON CERTAIN MATTERS HE WOULD CONTINUE TO REPORT TO THE MINISTER. ON PURELY FOREIGN TRADE MATTERS, HE WOULD REPORT TO THE NEW STATE SECRETARY. THIS CLARIFICATION OF HIS OWN ROLE, HE SAID, HAD SOMEWHAT RECONCILED HIM TO THE NEW SITUATION. BRUNET SAID THAT THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIS DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW STATE SECRETARY HAD NOT YET BEEN CLARIFIED BUT THAT ONE COULD RULE OUT ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THE STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN TRADE WOULD HAVE ANY JURISDICTION OVER HIM OR HIS DEPARTMENT, SAYING "WE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS." ON THE OTHER HAND, HE EXPECTED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE STATE SECRETARY.

4. BRUNET CONFIRMED THAT GISCARD HAD NOT MAINTAINED THE POSITION OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT, THE POSITION HELD BY FREYCHE AND BEFORE HIM BERNARD UNDER POMPIDOU. HE SAID THAT, GIVEN HIS BACKGROUND AND THE QUALIFICATIONS OF HIS SECRETARY GENERAL AND DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, GISCARD OBVIOUSLY DID NOT NEED AN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ADVISOR. BRUNET ALSO SAID THAT SAUVAGNARGUES HAD DECIDED TO RETAIN THE POLICY PLANNING UNIT SET UP BY JOBERT (PARIS A-173). HOWEVER, ITS METHOD OF OPERATION WOULD BE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT WAS UNDER JOBERT. UNDER JOBERT THE UNIT HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEVER CONSULTED WITH THE PERMANENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE MFA IN DRAFTING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTER. IN FACT, JOBERT HAD FORBADE IT TO DO THIS. THIS HAD CREATED MUCH BAD FEELING IN THE MINISTRY. BRUNET SAID THAT THE UNIT WOULD NOW BE REQUIRED TO COORDINATE ITS DRAFTS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION.

5. POLICY - BRUNET SAID HE EXPECTED NO IMPORTANT CHANGES

IN FRENCH TRADE POLICY UNDER THE NEW GOVERNMENT. HE SAID
THE GOF WOULD CONTINUE ANTI-PROTECTIONIST POLICIES
(PRACTICING WHAT WE USED TO PREACH TO YOU, AS HE PUT IT).
IT WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE OBJECTIVE OF MODERATE
TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND WOULD MAINTAIN ITS COMMITMENTS
TO CONSTRUCTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE MTN.

6. BRUNET'S VIEWS ON ENERGY POLICY ARE REPORTED SEPTTEL.
STONE

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